lines of the NIOH, Calcutta; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to increase such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) (b) and (d) Proposals are being prepared to open composite Regional Centres of National Institutes for rehabilitation of disabled persons in other parts of the country on receipt of requisite details from the concerned State Governments.

(c) No Sir. There are 2 apex level Institutes namely, National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research in Cuttack near Bhubaneshwar the capital of Orissa and Institute for the Physically Handicapped in New Delhi.

Plight of Textile Mill Workers

*373. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Trade Unions have made any representation on the plight of textile mill workers especially the workers of NTC Mills;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to implement tripartite decision on NTC Mill workers issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Representations have been received from time to time from Central Trade Unions regarding revival of NTC mills.

(b) and (c) Details of the steps taken to implement decisions of the Special Tripartite Committee Meeting held on 9.4.94 and 33rd Standing Labour Committee held on 13.9.95 are given at statement.

Statement

(A) Action taken report in respect of agreement reached in meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee held on 9.4.94.

	Recommendation	Action Taken
1.	The report given by the Textile Research Associations (TRAs) so that the NTC mills as well as Taken Over Mills can be made viable by Modernisation	The Government on 9.5.1995 had approved a Revised Turn Around Plan, 1995, mainly based on TRAs Scheme and agreement reached at the Tripartite Committee meeting which envisages, inter-alia, modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills, rationalisation of workforce through VRS. However, the plan could not be implemented due to non-approval of the Plan by the BIFR and non-disposal of the surplus land and assets by which the funds have to be generated for the Plan.

(B) Action Taken Report in respect of decisions taken in the 33rd Standing Labour Committee on 13.9.95

Recommendation	Action Taken
3. The Conference noted its concern over the delay in implementation of the Turn Around Plan for revival of sick mills of NTC even after its approval by the Cabinet. Therefore, Labour Ministry should convene a meeting of Union Ministries of Labour, Finance and Textiles and Trade Unions and the concerned State Governments to expedite a decision in the matter. In the meantime, Ministry of Textiles should take steps to pay wages in time and bonus before Diwali, 1996.	In order to expedite the decision in the matter of revival of NTC mills, the Cabinet constituted a Committee consisting of Secretary, Textiles as Chairman, Secretary (Expenditure), Secretary (Labour), Adviser (Planning Commission), a Technical expert as its members and CMD, NTC (HC) as Member Secretary to go into the issue of techno-economic viability of each mill. The report of this Committee was discussed in a Cabinet Meeting on 19th August, 1997. The Cabinet in turn decided that the matter may be looked into by a Group of Ministers (GOM) consisting of Minister of Industry, Minister of Finance and Minister of Textiles. The Ministry of Labour has been taking up the matter of non-payment of wages and other statutory dues to workers employed in CPSUs with the concerned administrative Ministries. As a result of these initiatives, the Ministry of Textiles has been able to pay the wages to NTC workers upto end of June, 1997. The bonus for workers of NTC was released before Diwali, 1996.

New Industrial Policy for the North-East

*374. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new industrial policy has been formulated for North-East region last year;

(b) if so, its salient features;

(c) whether other regions/areas have been identified which are backward and need special efforts for industrialisation; and

(d) if so, the details and packages, if any, for their development?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) A new industrial policy for the North Eastern Region was announced by the Government on December 24, 1997. The salient features of the policy are as follows:—

1. Entire expenditure on Growth Centres, upto Rs. 15 crores would be met through Central assistance.
2. Funding pattern for Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDCs) changed to 4:1 between Government of India and SIDBI.
3. Transport subsidy scheme extended upto 31.3.2007 and amount to be disbursed through North-East Development Financial Corporation.
4. Growth Centres & IIDCs become tax-free zones for income tax and excise for 10 years and 15% subsidy